

Wilmette, IL - Congressman Mark Kirk called on U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns to help North Shore communities eradicate the tree destroying Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The Illinois Department of Agriculture confirmed Thursday that the destructive insect was found dead in the yard of a Wilmette home. After further inspection, Village Forestry officials found several trees in the surrounding area exhibiting symptoms of Borer infestation.

“The spread of this species could have a terrible ecological impact on our communities. This infestation could kill over 2,500 Wilmette ash trees – an outcome we cannot allow to happen,” Kirk said. “We all know how the Asian Long Horned Beetle several years ago destroyed thousands of trees in Chicago, literally changing the face of the Ravenswood neighborhood. Our suburbs survived this scare, but we may now be faced with a more difficult task of eliminating the Emerald Ash Borer from our suburban trees. I called on the Department of Agriculture to lend its expertise and help for the village of Wilmette to eliminate this threat before it is too late.”

The Emerald Ash Borer is a small, metallic green beetle native to Asia. Its larvae burrow into the bark of ash trees, causing the trees to starve and eventually die. There is less known about this beetle than American species but USDA has considerable international expertise in house.

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